

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

October 21, 2009

In attendance at the October 21, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting were Rachel Gear, Ian Curran, Bill Allen, Dolores Baronas, Joe Gambon, Bob MacDonald, Caryn Stevens, Rich Penney, John Ellard and Paula Ferguson

John Ellard brought the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2009 meeting by Bill Allen, seconded by Joe Gambon. A unanimous vote was taken.

There was no correspondence to review.

There was no old business to discuss.

Under New Business: A request was made for the actuals spent by the departments at the end of fiscal year 2009 and currently. The secretary will contact the Town Accountant for this information and also if the budgets can be sent electronically in an effort to conserve paper.

There were no new budgets received to review. A review of the old budgets was done with the following questions:

Town Accountant's Budget: Why not level funded like every other department?

Town Meeting and Elections: How many elections for 2011? How about volunteers manning the polls? Why two people at each end of check in and check out.

Police Department: Funding for the Quinn Bill? With the decrease in Police Officers, why didn't clothing allowance go down? Why did the 911 dispatcher's salaries increase? Why did cruiser maintenance go down especially with fuel costs increasing?

Fire Department: Why increase in Lieutenants' salaries? What is the difference between Call Firefighter's salary and Call Firefighter's payroll? With few firefighters, why didn't clothing allowance decrease? How much was actually spent on Gas and Diesel? How much was actually spent in heating oil? Is technology account Ambu-Pro?

Building Department: Why the increase in seminars and dues and meetings?

Weights and Measures: Why the increase in sundries?

Highway: Why the increase in Street Striping?

Tree Department: Why the increase in Hired Equipment?

Water Department: How does rates get set? Who oversees the contracts? Why the difference in increases between the towns of Abington and Rockland with Abington being .08% and Rockland being 8.44%?

Board of Health: Where is the landfill monitoring account? Why is it always an article and not included on the budget?

Articles for Town Meeting:

ARTICLE I: Motion made by Rich Penney to approve, seconded by Rachel Gear. Unanimous Vote.

ARTICLE II: Motion made by Bob MacDonald to table, seconded by Ian Curran. Unanimous Vote. Questions were raised as to how much is the buy out. John Ellard will contact the Town Administrator regarding this.

ARTICLE III: Motion made by Rich Penney and seconded by Bill Allen to table this article due to the previous years, the total for the Land fill Monitoring Account was \$25,000 and this year they are asking for \$30,000. John Ellard shall contact the Town Administrator regarding this increase. Unanimous Vote was taken.

ARTICLE IV: Motion made by Bob MacDonald and seconded by Dolores to Passover this Article. Joe Gambon opposed this motion making it 8 yes, 1 no. Questions were raised that the Committee was under the impression it was a temporary increase in hours and 2011 budget had it in as permanent. Also, additional benefits may have to be paid to clerical staff if hours are increased as requested.

ARTICLE V: Motion was made by Joe Gambon, seconded by Rich Penney to Approve this article. Bob MacDonald opposed. A vote of 8 yes, 1 no was taken.

ARTICLE VI: Motion was made by Bob MacDonald and seconded by Bill Allen to approve Article VI and refer to the Board of Health. A unanimous vote was taken.

ARTICLE VII: Motion was made by Bill Allen and seconded by Rich Penney to approve this article. A unanimous vote was taken.

ARTICLE VIII: A motion was made by Joe Gambon and seconded by Rich Penney to approve. Bob MacDonald, Caryn Stevens and Ian Curran opposed. A 6 yes to 3 no vote was taken.

ARTICLE IX: A motion was made by Ian Curran and seconded by Bill Allen to approve Article IX. Bob MacDonald opposed making it a 8 yes to 1 no vote.

Next meeting will be at the high school cafeteria beginning at 6:00 on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 just prior to Special Town Meeting.

Rachel Gear made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Allen. A unanimous vote was taken.

Sincerely,

Paula Ferguson
Secretary
Rockland Finance Committee